

303 words, column #12  
Java Talk  
(for July 12 to July 18, 2007)

## **Every Age Is The Best Age**

### *For Twins, Too*

In the “Be Nice” story, a pregnant mother of twins strokes her belly, over and over, saying, “Be nice.” But, after nine months, and even nine years, there are no births! Finally, when she is well into her nineties, she gives birth to two old men who are arguing, “No, no. Please, you go first.”

In Barcelona, Carmela Bousada, a Spanish pensioner, who was almost 67 when she gave birth to her twin sons, Pau and Christian, last December, told one of her interviewers that “This was the right time for me.” In my books, her age would make her merely middle-aged, as I tend to think of middle-age as referring to the middle years of ones’ mortal lifetime. However, according to Encarta® World English Dictionary, middle-aged means, “no longer considered young, but not yet considered old,” which sounds okay, to me; and as “relating to the behavior, attitudes, lifestyle, or interests considered characteristic of middle age, especially staidness, conventionality, or old-fashionedness,” which sounds loathsome, to me, never mind that such a stereotyping interpretation certainly doesn’t describe Carmela!

Meanwhile, according to the Guinness World Records, the oldest twins are 105-year-old Canadians. The sisters, Ellen Robertson and Sarah Jeanmougin, were born on May 29, 1902, in the town of Wolseley, near Regina, which, until three years later when Saskatchewan became a province, was still considered part of the Northwest Territories. Now, Sarah lives in Arizona.

Ellen, who lives in Winnipeg, taught aerobics until she was 93. According to a CBC article, her son, Dixon Robertson, 74, told reporters, “‘People would come for only half an hour because they couldn’t keep up with her. She just lived a clean life.’ Her outlook on life helped too, he said. ‘Everybody’s great, nobody’s bad. It’s just her attitude.’”

So, it’s never too late for a helpful outlook!

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